New Management for SAIL

1191. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of *STEEL* be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the losses suffered by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) have been increasing every year;

(b) if so, what are the concrete steps Government are proposing or have taken to curtail these losses;

(c) whether the Government propose to make any change in the top management of the company; and

(d) if so, whether Government want to give specific targets to the new management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) SAIL has been consistently making profit since 1984-85 till 1997-98. However, SAIL has suffered a loss (after tax) of Rs. 1574 crores and Rs. 1348 crores (Provisional) during 1998-99 and during the 1st half of 1999-2000 respectively

(b) Government is in constant dialogue with SAIL and is periodically reviewing their performance with a view to increasing their competitiveness and efficiency. Accordingly, to check losses and improve the financial health of SAIL, the Company has drawn up a comprehensive financial and business restructuring plan. The measures outlined in the plan include, *inter-alia:*

(i) A reduction in operational costs by reducing input costs, reducing consumption of raw materials and other inputs and by increasing operating efficiencies;

(ii) Improvement in techno-economic parameters such as fuel and power consumption;

(iii) Increased recovery for services^facilities;

(iv) Right sizing manpower through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

(v) Assets restructuring;

(vi) Disposal of idle assets; and

(vii) Financial restructuring.

(c)No Sir.

(d) Dries not arise.

Expansion of Government Steel Plants

1192. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) when the last expansion in respect of each Government Steel Plant was undertaken by Government during the last three years;

(b) what are the details thereof (plant-wise) indicating cost overrun because of the delay in execution of the expansion/production capacity (year-wise) till date;

(c) what efforts Government have made, so far, to inquire into the matter and whether any official has been found guilty; and

(d) if riot, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Government Steel Plants have not undertaken any expansion scheme during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Losses by Steel Plants

1193. S;HRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to depression in the steel market our steel plants, both in private/public sectors, are incurring huge losses;

(b) if sp, what is the total loss figure, year-wise for the last three years suffered by our domestic industry; and

(c) whit are Government's plans to revamp Indian steel industry which is facing hard competition in the world market after globalisation indicating the budgetary provisions made during 1999-2000 period?